

Bob Forbuss has touched the lives of countless Nevadans and others throughout our Nation, and in so doing has established a legacy of service for all to follow.

THE RELEASE OF AUNG SAN SUU KYI

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this past weekend produced the first heartening news out of Burma in recent memory. Coming just days after the junta held its charade-like elections, this past Saturday Aung San Suu Kyi was released from house arrest where she had spent 15 of the past 21 years.

While fellow advocates of democracy in Burma rightly rejoice in her being freed, our feelings of joy and relief are tempered by several sobering concerns. First, there is the matter of her safety. We all remember the brutal attack against her in 2003. That must not be permitted to happen again. Second, we know Suu Kyi has been released in the past only to be later detained on trumped-up charges. We want her release to be permanent, not temporary. Third, although she was granted unconditional release, it remains to be seen whether the regime will tolerate her active participation in public affairs. And that is essential for Burma to undertake any meaningful progress toward democracy. Finally, while Suu Kyi has been released from detention, more than 2,000 other prisoners of conscience remain imprisoned in Burma. Only when all are unconditionally freed can the people of Burma truly begin the process of democratic reform and reconciliation.

Make no mistake, the release of Suu Kyi is a positive step forward in Burma. Yet it is only the first—and by no means the final—step that must take place in that beleaguered country.

REMEMBERING SENATOR TED STEVENS

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of a friend and former colleague, former Senator Ted Stevens, who passed away this August in a plane crash. I know that I speak for all of my colleagues when I say how difficult it was to receive news of Ted's passing this summer, and I would like to take this moment to convey my heartfelt condolences to everyone who knew, worked with, and enjoyed Ted during his life.

I believe that Ted will long be remembered as a man of the Senate. First appointed to his seat more than four decades ago, Ted Stevens became the longest-serving Republican in the history of this body in 2007. Throughout his tenure in Washington, Ted served in a number of key leadership positions, including as chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee and as President pro tempore.

Over the years, I had the pleasure of being able to collaborate with Ted on a number of critically important issues,

including, perhaps most recently, legislation that I introduced during the 110th Congress to provide paid leave to workers under the auspices of the Family and Medical Leave Act. And while Ted and I did not substantively agree on much, he didn't shy away from reaching out across the partisan divide to get things done. In fact, it was his willingness to work with Democrats—to seek out common ground and compromise on areas of contention when necessary—that made him such a prolific, effective, and well-respected member of this body.

The incredibly strong bonds Ted forged with his colleagues over the years were in full display at his memorial service in Alaska over the summer. I made the trip up north to attend his funeral, and I found it incredibly moving to hear the words of Ted's longtime friend, my colleague Senator INOUE, who delivered Ted's eulogy, and our Vice President JOE BIDEN, who also made some remarks during the service. Clearly, this was a person who left not only an indelible mark on the Senate as a body, but on many of the individual Senators who had the opportunity to serve with him over the years.

That was certainly the case for me. Years ago, Ted Stevens and I participated in the U.S.-Canadian interparliamentary meeting together. It was one of the most enjoyable 4 days I spent in my 30 years in the Senate for one simple reason—in addition to all his substantive talents, Ted Stevens was great fun—he loved his family, Alaska, his country and his friends.

And on that last point, while it is true that Ted was a creature of the Senate, I believe Ted Stevens will be remembered far into the future first and foremost as a man of Alaska. Ted truly loved his home State, and over the years, he cultivated a strong reputation as one of its greatest champions.

Indeed, Ted's own life was inextricably linked to many of the major events and advancements that occurred in Alaska's history over the past half century. Having served with distinction in World War II as a pilot for the U.S. Army Air Corps in Asia, Ted graduated from Harvard Law School in 1950 and moved to Fairbanks to practice law. Several years later, Ted was brought on to work for the Interior Department under President Eisenhower. In that capacity, Ted advocated very persistently for Alaskan statehood, finally helping make that goal a reality in 1959. Later on, as a Senator, Ted once again worked hard on behalf of his State, its people and interests, fighting to direct federal resources to that vast, sparsely populated, and incredibly beautiful corner of our country.

Ted viewed himself as Alaska's chief advocate here in Washington, and throughout his four decades in the Senate, he never deviated from that mission. Known by many of the Alaskans he helped over the years simply as

"Uncle Ted," Ted Stevens was singularly devoted to serving his constituents and ensuring their needs and concerns were given a voice on Capitol Hill. And it is that level of dedication to the people who sent him here to represent their interests that will ultimately be Ted Stevens' greatest legacy.

Once again, I would like to express my sincere condolences to Ted's wife Catherine; his children Susan, Elizabeth, Walter, Theodore, Ben, and Lily; and his 11 grandchildren. And I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Ted for his years of tireless and selfless service on behalf of his State and country.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, this past summer the people of Alaska lost one of its favorite sons, and many of us in the U.S. Senate lost one of our mentors and friends. His name was Senator Ted Stevens.

By the time I took my seat in this Chamber, Senator Stevens had already held his for more than three decades. He chaired numerous committees, served as President pro tempore, and was widely regarded as one of the most gifted parliamentarians on our side of the aisle. His forty years of service is the longest tenure of any Republican in the history of the United States Senate.

Senator Stevens championed landmark legislation that has transformed Alaska, America, and the world. He helped settle land claims of Native Americans, guard fisheries and protect natural wonders of his home State. He helped guide the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Act into law, which has dramatically improved our Nation's energy security. He helped strengthen our Armed Forces to defend America's interests and values. He helped reform the United States Olympic Committee, and has given generations of American athletes the chance to succeed at the highest levels of international competition.

Ted Stevens' devotion to his adopted home State extended well beyond his service in Washington. After earning a Distinguished Flying Cross in World War II and graduating from Harvard Law School, he served as U.S. attorney in Fairbanks. In 1958, as legislative counsel for the Department of the Interior here in Washington, he helped shepherd Alaska's Statehood Act into law. In 1999, his State's legislature named him the "Alaskan of the Century." As one of his family members put it, the legacy of Ted Stevens is the 49th star on the American flag.

Four other individuals perished in the plane crash that claimed the life of Senator Ted Stevens on August 9, and we pray for all those who lost loved ones on that night. Sandy and I especially keep in our hearts those whom Ted Stevens loved most: his wife Catherine, his 6 children, his 11 grandchildren, and the nearly 700,000 Alaskans who cherish the memory of "Uncle Ted."